STATUTES AND ORDINANCES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

AND

PASSAGES FROM ACTS OF PARLIAMENT
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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CONTENTS

Historical Note xi
Preface xiii

STATUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Statute A

The Chancellor and the Government of the University

Chapter I The Chancellor, the Senate, the High Steward, the Deputy High Steward, and the Commissary 3
II Powers of the University 4
III The Regent House 5
IV The Council and its Committees 6
V The General Board, the Schools, Faculties, and Departments 7
VI Boards, Syndicates, and Committees 9
VII The Board of Scrutiny 9
VIII Conduct of Business 10
IX Review 10
X Miscellaneous 12

Statute B

Membership of the University and Degrees

I Membership of the University, Admission, and Matriculation 14
II Degrees 14
III Courses and Examinations, Allowances 15

Statute C

University Offices and Employment in the University

I University Offices: General 16
II Employment in the University 17
III The Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellors 18
IV The Proctors 19
V The Orator 20
VI The Registry 20
VII The Librarian 20
VIII The Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum 20
IX The Esquire Bedells 20
X The University Advocate, the Deputy University Advocates 21
XI Professors 21
XII Readers 21
XIII University Senior Lecturers and Lecturers 21
Schedule to Statute C

Academic Staff

I Construction, Application, and Interpretation
II Redundancy
III Discipline, Dismissal, and Removal from Office
IV Removal for Incapacity on Medical Grounds
V Grievance

Statute D

Discipline, the University Courts, and Disciplinary Panels

I Discipline
II The University Courts and Disciplinary Panels

Statute E

Trusts

I General Provisions
II The Bell, Abbott, and Barnes Funds
III The John Stewart of Rannoch Funds
IV The Tyson Fund
V The Hare Fund
VI The Hulsean Fund
VII The Craven Fund
VIII The Battie, Browne, Davies, Pitt, Porson, and Waddington Funds
IX The John Lucas Walker Fund
X The Crosse Fund
XI The Seatonian Fund
XII The Rustat Fund
XIII The Worts Fund
XIV The Rede Foundation
XV The Preacher on the Foundation of the Lady Margaret
XVI The Le Bas Fund
XVII The Peregrine Maitland Fund
XVIII The Burney Fund
XIX The Norrisian Fund
XX The Whewell Benefaction
XXI The Yorke Fund
XXII The George Long Fund
XXIII The Stanton Fund
XXIV The Harding Fund
XXV The Isaac Newton Fund
XXVI The Arnold Gerstenberg Fund
XXVII The Prendergast Fund
XXVIII The Smith Fund
XXIX The Rayleigh Prizes
## CONTENTS

| XXX | The Carus, Scholefield, Kaye, Hebrew, Evans Prize, Jeremie, and George Williams Funds, and the Theological Studies Fund | page 40 |
| XXXI | The Wiltshire Prize | 41 |
| XXXII | Endowed Professorships and Readerships | 41 |
| XXXIII | The Professorships of Divinity and Hebrew | 41 |
| XXXIV | The Dixie Professorship of Ecclesiastical History | 41 |
| XXXV | The Lowndean Professorship of Astronomy and Geometry | 42 |
| XXXVI | The Vere Harmsworth Professorship of Imperial and Naval History | 42 |
| XXXVII | The Crotch Fund | 43 |
| XXXVIII | The Benn W. Levy Fund | 43 |
| XXXIX | The Clerk Maxwell Fund | 43 |
| XL | The Arthur Balfour Fund | 43 |
| XLI | The Harness Fund | 44 |
| XLII | The Ellen McArthur Fund | 44 |
| XLIII | The Rebecca Flower Squire Fund | 44 |
| XLIV | The R. A. Nicholson Fund | 44 |
| XLV | The F. E. Elmore Fund | 45 |
| XLVI | The Sandys Fund and Studentship | 45 |
| XLVII | Medieval Scandinavian History Fund | 45 |

### Statute F

**Finance, Audit, Planning and Resource Allocation, Property and Buildings**

| I | Finance, the Chest, and Audit | 46 |
| II | Planning and Resource Allocation, Buildings | 46 |

### Statute G

**Colleges and Collegiate Foundations**

| I | The Colleges and Collegiate Foundations | 47 |
| II | College Contributions and the Colleges Fund | 48 |
| Schedule to Statute G II | 51 |
| III | Accounts | 51 |
| IV | Academic Obligations | 52 |

### Statute J

**The University Press**

|  | 53 |

### Passages from Acts of Parliament relating to the University of Cambridge

- From the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act 1923 | 54 |
- From the Education Reform Act 1988 | 57 |

### Procedure for making a Statute for a College

|  | 60 |

### Rules of Procedure made by the Commissary under Statute A IX 7

|  | 61 |
Special Ordinances under Statute A

The Chancellor and the Government of the University

Special Ordinance

A (i) Submission of Graces (Special Ordinance under Statutes A III 4 and A IV 1(d)), Conduct of business (in the Regent House) (Special Ordinance under Statute A VIII) page 65

A (ii) Membership of the Council: detailed provisions (Special Ordinance under Statute A IV 3) 66

A (iii) Finance Committee of the Council (Special Ordinance under Statute A IV 8) 67

A (iv) Audit Committee of the Council (Special Ordinance under Statute A IV 10) 67

A (v) The General Board, the Schools, and the assignment of Faculties, Departments etc. (Special Ordinance under Statute A V) 68

A (vi) Boards and Syndicates (Special Ordinance under Statute A VI 1(a)) 69

A (vii) University bodies; miscellaneous provisions; delegation (Special Ordinance under Statute A X 8) 69

Special Ordinances under Statute B

Membership of the University and Degrees

Special Ordinance

B (i) Degrees (Special Ordinance under Statute B II) 70

Special Ordinances under Statute C

University Offices and Employment in the University

Special Ordinance

C (i) University Officers: sabbatical leave, dispensation, duty to examine (Special Ordinance under Statute C I 1) 71

C (ii) University Officers (Special Ordinance under Statute C I 2) 73

C (iii) The Proctors (Special Ordinance under Statute C IV) 74

C (iv) Administrative Officers (Special Ordinance under Statute C VI 4) 75

C (v) The Librarian (Special Ordinance under Statute C VII) 75

C (vi) The Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum (Special Ordinance under Statute C VIII) 76

C (vii) Professors (Special Ordinance under Statute C XI 3) 77

C (viii) Readers (Special Ordinance under Statute C XII) 87

C (ix) University Senior Lecturers and Lecturers (Special Ordinance under Statute C XIII 2) 88

C (x) Selection Committees (Special Ordinance under Statute C XIII 2) 89

C (xi) Associate Lecturers (Special Ordinance under Statute C XIII 2) 90

C (xii) Redress of Grievances (Special Ordinance under Schedule to Statute C Chapter V 2) 90

C (xiii) Appeals 93
CONTENTS

SPECIAL ORDINANCES UNDER STATUTE D
DISCIPLINE AND THE UNIVERSITY COURTS

Special Ordinance
D (i) Appointment of Chairs and Members of University Courts (Special Ordinance under Statute D II 8–9) page 94
D (ii) University Disciplinary Panels and Appeal Bodies (Special Ordinance under Statute D II 10) 94
D (iii) Appeal to the Septemviri (Special Ordinance under Statute D II 4) 96
D (iv) The University Advocate; Miscellaneous Provisions (Special Ordinance under Statute D) 97
D (v) Precautionary Action (Special Ordinance under Statute D I) 98

SPECIAL ORDINANCE UNDER STATUTE G
COLLEGES AND COLLEGIATE FOUNDATIONS

Special Ordinance
G (i) Professorial Fellowships (Special Ordinance under Statute G IV 6) 100

ORDINANCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CHAPTER I
THE CHANCELLOR AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Cambridge University Reporter 103
Nomination and election of the Chancellor 103
Roll of the Regent House 104
Conduct of business 105
The Council 111
The Board of Scrutiny 114
The General Board 114
Single Transferable Vote regulations 115
General regulations for Boards, Syndicates, etc. 118
Special regulations for Boards 119
Special regulations for Syndicates 123
Special regulations for Committees and certain other bodies 131
Superannuation Schemes 143
Latham Pension Fund 144
University Marshal 144
Equal Opportunities Policy 145
Employment by the University 146
Contributory Pension Scheme 150
Fees 151
Payments 163
Admission to lectures and laboratories by special leave 163
Power to affix the Seals of the University 165

CHAPTER II
MATRICULATION, RESIDENCE, ADMISSION TO DEGREES, DISCIPLINE, CONDUCT, COMPLAINTS

Matriculation 166
Classes of persons qualified to matriculate 166
Examination requirements for matriculation 166
Chapter III
Examinations

Honours Examinations
Allowances to candidates for examinations
Entries and lists of candidates for examinations
Dates of examinations and publication of class-lists
Form and conduct of examinations
Publication of lists of successful candidates in examinations
Disclosure of examination marks
General regulations for Examiners and Assessors
Payments to Examiners and Assessors

Chapter IV
Preliminary Examinations and Tripos Examinations

Preliminary Examinations
Tripos Examinations

Chapter V
B.A. Degree and M.A. Degree

Bachelor of Arts
Master of Arts
CONTENTS

CHAPTER VI

GRADUATE STUDENTS

General regulations for admission as a Graduate Student  page 440

CHAPTER VII

DEGREES, DIPLOMAS, AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Master of Accounting 445
Master of Advanced Study 446
Degrees in Business 448
Degrees in Divinity 452
Degrees in Education 462
Degrees in Engineering 466
Master of Finance 469
Degrees in Law 470
Master of Mathematics 475
Degrees in Medicine and Surgery 475
Degrees in Music 495
Master of Natural Sciences (M.Sci.) 498
Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science, Master of Letters, and Master of Philosophy by Dissertation 499
Master of Philosophy 509
Master of Research 546
Doctor of Science and Doctor of Letters 552
Master of Studies 553
Degrees in Veterinary Medicine 563
Diplomas 576
Certificates 583
Diplomas and Certificates open to non-members of the University 592

CHAPTER VIII

SCHOOLS AND COUNCILS OF THE SCHOOLS 599

CHAPTER IX

FACULTIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE GENERAL BOARD

General regulations for Faculties 604
Faculty membership 605
Constitution of the Faculty Boards 605
Degree Committees 614
Departments and Heads of Departments 615
Special regulations for Faculties and Departments 617
Sub-departments 645
Other institutions under the supervision of the General Board 651
CHAPTER XI

University Offices and Grants of Title

General regulations for University officers 678
Stipends 688
Special regulations for University officers 695
Officers specified in the Schedule to Special Ordinance C (i) 1 699
Officers other than those specified in the Schedule to Special Ordinance C (i) 1 761
Grant of Title 766

CHAPTER XII

Trusts

Endowed University Lectureships 767
Funds, Studentships, Prizes, Lectureships, etc.: General regulations 768
Funds, Studentships, Prizes, Lectureships, etc.: Special regulations 770

CHAPTER XIII

Finance and Property

Financial Matters 1033
Audit Committee 1057
Intellectual Property Rights 1057
University Funds 1065

CHAPTER XIV

Colleges

Fellowship of a College 1071
College Accounts 1071
Colleges: Matriculation and presentation of candidates for certain degrees 1098

CHAPTER XV

Institutions recognized under Statute G I 1100

Appendix I: Procedures and guidelines

Transfer of stewardship of human remains 1101

Index to the Statutes and Ordinances 1105
HISTORICAL NOTE

The University of Cambridge is thought to have originated in the early thirteenth century, and there is no doubt that by about 1250 it was a recognized centre of study. It was not, however, until 1318 that Cambridge received from Pope John XXII formal recognition as a Studium Generale or Universitas.

The University is a common law corporation, being a corporation by prescription consisting of a Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars who from time out of mind have had the government of their members and enjoyed the privileges of such a corporation. By Act of Parliament 13 Elizabeth Cap. 29 passed in the year 1571 the incorporation of the University and all privileges then held under charter or by prescription were duly confirmed. The University is now authorized by the Lord Chancellor to act in relation to charitable, ecclesiastical, and public trusts as a trust corporation.

The corporate title of the University is The Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Cambridge.

ARMS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The arms now borne by the University of Cambridge, gules a cross ermine and four gold leopards with a book gules upon the cross, were granted by Robert Cooke, Clarencieux King of Arms, on 9 June 1573.

REDUCED DRAWING OF THE COMMON SEAL

The Common Seal now in use was made in 1580 and on the reverse bears the inscription Matthaeus Stokis Bedellus dedit formam 1580 Guilielmas Farrand Procurator dedit materiam.
During 2012–13, new Statutes were approved by the Regent House. The new Statutes were approved by Her Majesty in Council on 11 February 2014 and incorporated into the 2014 edition. For information about the Statutes prior to those approved on 11 February 2014, see the preface to the 2014 edition.

During 2017–18, further amending Statutes have been made as shown below. These have been incorporated into the present edition, and have been approved by Her Majesty in Council as follows:

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